

of St. Petersburg, as the St. Petersburg Parkway/William C. Cramer Memorial Highway has appropriately and justly recognized Cramer's life-long dedication to St. Petersburg and his outstanding leadership in helping to build the Nation's interstate highway system. In enacting HB 9 and HB 385, the Florida Legislature has acknowledged the pivotal role that Bill Cramer played in securing authorization and funding for Florida's interstate highway missing links that have been so vital to the economic well being of St. Petersburg and all of southwest Florida.

Cramer's congressional district included Pinellas County from 1955 to 1971, and it also included Hillsborough County from 1955 to 1963, prior to redistricting. He was devoted to the goal of including that area and the lower west coast of Florida as the first major addition to the nation's initial 41,000 mile interstate system. The Howard-Cramer Act and the 1968 Federal Aid Highway Act made this a possibility, and Cramer's persistence made it a reality.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
MARIO ATRIAN, JR.

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our Nation's young heroes, Lance Corporal Mario Atrian, Jr.

Lance Corporal Mario Atrian joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 and served two tours of duty in Iraq. On April 9, 2004, during his second tour of duty, LCpl. Atrian was injured while bravely fighting to protect a friendly unit from an enemy ambush. Despite bleeding profusely from both his right and left arms, and his driver being killed, LCpl. Atrian continued to defend his comrades and relinquished his position to receive medical attention only after the enemy ambush had been broken and his fellow wounded Marines were away from enemy fire. Today, LCpl. Atrian will receive one of our Nation's highest awards, the Silver Star for his leadership, his loyalty, and his courage.

Lance Corporal Mario Atrian is from Los Angeles and is a resident of my district. Our community is blessed to have such a distinguished, brave, young man. I encourage him to continue to fight for that which he believes with such courage and dignity throughout the rest of his life.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the many Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions which have had such a tremendous impact and overall positive effect on African American life and history.

Established in an age when racial segregation and disenfranchisement plagued African

Americans, the rise of each of the black fraternities and sororities bore witness to the fact that despite hardships, African Americans refused to conform to a status of inferiority.

These organizations, some which have been in existence since the early 1900s, have cut across racial, national, physical and social barriers, in order to make a difference educationally, socially, economically, and politically. They have proven to be an effective channel for social change and a recognized force in the struggle for civil and human rights.

Serving more than just their immediate members, these black fraternities and sororities known as the "Divine Nine" joined with other civic associations such as the Urban League, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the Prince Hall Masons, the Eastern Stars, and so many others to provide service to the entire black community. It wasn't just the "church" that addressed the needs and answered the call of the black community, but it was these fraternal organizations that stepped up and took on that role as well.

Just who are the "Divine Nine"? They are Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Nine strong, they promote interaction through forums, meetings and other mediums in order to exchange information and engage in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities.

Other black social organizations also took the helm in addressing the concerns of the black community and like the fraternal organizations, represent the aspirations of many African Americans. They are The Links, Jack and Jill, 100 Black Men, and Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

We look to and thank all of these organizations for striving to improve the quality of life within our communities, and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans. Their leadership and steadfast commitment to the betterment of our young people and our communities, has been and continues to be a tremendous success and of great inspiration.

May all of these fine and outstanding organizations continue to carry on their good work knowing that they have the admiration and support of the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY RICHARDSON:
A LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our community's genuine unsung leaders, the late Leroy Richardson. His untimely passing on December 22, 2005 has truly left a deep void in our midst.

In many ways, this quiet but dignified leader represented the best and the noblest of our community. He was a man of strong faith who was known for his remarkable generosity. He was a dedicated member of the New Shiloh

Baptist Church, where he faithfully worshipped and served under the late Rev. Dr. Arthur Jackson, Jr. and under its current pastor, the Rev. D.L. Powell.

Known as a man of limitless passion and dedication to the well-being of his fellow men, Mr. Richardson was a leader who went out of his way to focus on the socioeconomic well-being of countless families that came to know of his caring and compassion. Aside from his interest in the funeral industry, he founded a very successful business known today as the Richardson-Jackson Removal Service, Inc.

He served for many years as President of the #3 Usher Ministry and he was also a member of the Trustee Ministry, Assistant Lead-Servant of the Couples Ministry and the Assistant Director of Operations for the New Shiloh Baptist Church. Though a highly private individual, he dedicated his life to the service of others. In so doing, he symbolized everything that is good and noble about the American spirit of idealism and optimism in serving his fellowmen. Our community truly feels the loss of a decent and caring man in the late Leroy Richardson, and I know my colleagues join with me in celebrating his life and his many good works on behalf of our community.

TRIBUTE TO G. SCOTT HUBBARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. G. Scott Hubbard, who recently stepped down as Director of NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California to become the Carl Sagan Chair for Study of Life in the Universe at the SETI Institute.

Mr. Hubbard began his career at NASA Ames Research Center in 1987, becoming Center Director in 2002. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Hubbard on many issues since he assumed the Directorship. He has been an invaluable public servant, guiding NASA Ames through difficult times and inspiring confidence throughout the organization. I'm proud of our work together on many of the new endeavors at NASA Ames, as well as the work to ensure the long-term future of NASA Ames and Moffett Federal Airfield. Mr. Hubbard has always been a thorough professional . . . responsive, efficient and effective.

NASA Ames Research Center is in the heart of Silicon Valley and has played a crucial role in Silicon Valley's success. Director Hubbard demonstrated an unparalleled ability to use NASA Ames' unique position in the high-end research and development community to forge groundbreaking public-private R&D collaborations. Under his leadership, NASA Ames successfully partnered with Silicon Graphics and Intel Corporation to develop the fastest operational supercomputer in the world, and created the Center for Nanotechnology to lead federal research in this revolutionary technology. Mr. Hubbard was integral to the creation of the NASA Ames Research Park, a world-class R&D and education campus with industry, universities and non-profits all taking part. Today, more than thirty small R&D companies and fourteen universities are on-site. Because of his tireless